

of the acid, when they are easily examined. I have not been able to see any tentacles projected through the spines, as in *Acanthometra*, nor do the spines extend further inwards than the lorica. The whole organism very much resembles in its capsular elements those of the seed-like body of *Spongilla Meyeni*. I saw no crude food in the interior; but the nature of the nutriment, as well as other points in the history of this Rhizopod, may be elucidated by further examination.

XXV.—*Notice of a Drassus and Linyphia new to Science, and a Neriene hitherto unrecorded as British.* By JOHN BLACKWALL, F.L.S.

Tribe Octonoculina.

Family DRASSIDÆ.

Genus DRASSUS, Walck.

Drassus gracilipes.

Length of an immature male $\frac{3}{16}$ ths of an inch; length of the cephalothorax $\frac{1}{4}$; breadth $\frac{1}{16}$; breadth of the abdomen $\frac{1}{16}$; length of a posterior leg $\frac{1}{3}$; length of a leg of the third pair $\frac{1}{5}$.

The cephalothorax is convex, compressed before, rounded in front and on the sides, with slight furrows on the latter converging towards a narrow indentation in the medial line; it is soot-coloured, sparingly clothed with white hairs, and has a narrow fringe of hairs of the same hue on the lateral margins. The falces are conical and vertical; the maxillæ are convex at the base, and somewhat inclined towards the lip, which is nearly quadrate, and slightly hollowed at the apex. These parts are of a brown hue, the inner side of the maxillæ and the extremity of the lip and falces being much the palest. The sternum is heart-shaped, with small eminences on the sides opposite to the legs, and is soot-coloured, but rather browner than the cephalothorax. The eyes are disposed on the anterior part of the cephalothorax in two transverse, slightly curved, nearly parallel rows, the anterior row being rather the more curved; the lateral eyes are the largest, and the intermediate ones of the anterior row are the smallest and darkest of the eight. The legs are long, slender, and provided with hairs and spines, two parallel rows of long sessile spines occurring on the inferior surface of the tibiæ and metatarsi of the first and second pairs; the fourth pair is the longest, then the first, and the third pair is the shortest; each tarsus is terminated by two small curved claws, below which there is a minute scopula; the anterior legs have a black hue, with the exception of the base of the genual joint,

the extremity of the tibia, the base of the metatarsus, and the entire tarsus, which have a brownish-yellow colour; the fourth pair resembles the first in colour, the coxa and exinguinal joint excepted, which are of a brownish-yellow hue, with a few soot-coloured marks; and the second and third pairs differ from the fourth pair in having the femur, tibia, and metatarsus marked with brownish yellow. The palpi are of a brownish-yellow hue, that of the base of the humeral joint being brownish black; the digital joint of all the specimens examined was of an elongated oval form, and very tumid, indicating that they had to undergo their final ecdysis before they became adult. The abdomen is of an oblong-oviform figure, convex above, glossy, and of a black hue, the under part being the palest; the anterior region of the upper part is sparingly clothed with white hairs, and a short, transverse, curved bar, consisting of white hairs, and having its convexity directed forwards, occurs in the posterior region, a little above the coccyx, which has a few white hairs distributed upon it; the colour of the branchial opercula is brown, and that of the spinners brownish yellow.

Three immature males of this species, captured in the vicinity of Lisbon, were presented to me by the Rev. Hamlet Clark.

* Family LINYPHIIDÆ.

Genus LINYPHIA, Latr.

Linyphia crucigera.

Length of the female $\frac{1}{12}$ th of an inch; length of the cephalothorax $\frac{1}{20}$; breadth $\frac{1}{24}$; breadth of the abdomen $\frac{1}{24}$; length of a leg of the third pair $\frac{5}{20}$.

The eyes are seated on black spots on the anterior part of the cephalothorax; the four intermediate ones form a trapezoid, the two anterior ones, constituting its shortest side, being the smallest of the eight; the eyes of each lateral pair are placed obliquely on a tubercle, and are almost in contact. The cephalothorax is slightly compressed before, rounded on the sides, convex, glossy, and has an indentation in the medial line; it is of a yellowish-brown colour, the sides and a spot at the posterior point of the cephalic region having a brown hue. The falces are long, conical, somewhat divergent at the extremity, inclined towards the sternum, and armed with teeth on the inner surface; they are of a pale reddish-brown colour, with an obscure brownish streak passing from their base, on the inner side, obliquely outwards. The maxillæ are straight, and have the exterior angle of their enlarged extremity curvilinear; the lip is semicircular; and the sternum is heart-shaped. These parts have a dark

brown hue, tinged with red, the lip being the darkest, and the base of the maxillæ the palest. The legs of the specimen from which the description was made were mutilated, with the exception of one of the third pair; but, from the relative length of the uninjured joints, it is evident that the first pair is the longest, then the second, and the third pair is the shortest; and they are of a pale yellowish hue. The palpi are slender, and resemble the legs in colour. The abdomen is oviform, convex above, and projects over the base of the cephalothorax; the upper part has a yellowish-white hue; in the middle of the anterior half there is a soot-coloured cross, and on each side of the posterior half there is a strong longitudinal black band; these bands converge towards the spinners, immediately above which they unite; the colour of the sides and under part is brownish black, and that of the branchial opercula is yellow; the sexual organs are well developed, of a red-brown hue, and have in connexion with their posterior margin a long, slender, semidiaphanous process, tinged with red-brown at its extremity, which is directed backwards.

This *Linyphia* was taken in Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, and was received from Mr. R. H. Meade in the summer of 1862.

Genus NERIENE, Blackw.

Nerience dentipalpis.

Theridion dentipalpe, Wider, Museum Senckenb., Band i. p. 248, taf. 17. fig. 1.

Length of the male $\frac{1}{11}$ th of an inch; length of the cephalothorax $\frac{1}{18}$; breadth $\frac{1}{24}$; breadth of the abdomen $\frac{1}{24}$; length of an anterior leg $\frac{1}{7}$; length of a leg of the third pair $\frac{1}{10}$.

The male of this species is rather smaller than the male of *Nerience longipalpis*, but it bears a very close resemblance to it in structure and colour. Its most distinctive characters are, the deeply emarginated or somewhat crescent-shaped termination of the superior apophysis at the extremity of the radial joint, whose outer limb is the shorter; and a minute pointed process on the inferior surface of the apophysis at the extremity of the same joint, on the under side. The males of both species have a small pointed conical process at the extremity of the humeral joint of the palpi towards the outer side, and another on the upper part of the exinguinal joint of the anterior pair of legs.

Nerience dentipalpis may be found during the summer and autumnal months, among the grass of old pastures, in various parts of Denbighshire and Caernarvonshire.